

REMARKS

The specification and the claims have been amended to change "larger" to "higher," the latter being consistent with other parts of the specification; see for example, page 8, line 16 and page 15, lines 8-16. This is solely an editorial change not intended to change the scope of the invention described herein or the claims. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8 were rejected as unpatentable over ELASSAAD et al. 2004/0257207 in view of PORTERFIELD No. 6,588,001 and OZAWA No. 4,626,712. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Official Action acknowledges that the combination of ELASSAAD et al. and PORTERFIELD do not disclose the limitation that the first logic gate has a current driveability higher than a current driveability of the second logic gate, and relies on OZAWA for the suggestion to modify the combination of ELASSAAD et al. and PORTERFIELD to include this feature.

However, OZAWA does not disclose that the first logic gate has a current driveability higher than a current driveability of the second logic gate. As is known in the art, and alluded to at page 12, lines 10-16 of the present specification, current driveability depends on a channel ratio that is defined as MOSFET gate width W over MOSFET gate length

L (W/L). Thus, as noted at page 12, lines 15-16, the driveability is changed by changing the gate width W and holding fixed the gate length L.

By contrast, OZAWA discloses that the channel length L_2' of MISFET Q_2' in the first stage circuit is larger than the channel length L_4 of the MISFET Q_4 in the second stage circuit (Figure 3 and column 3, lines 65-68). Since the channel length of the first stage is larger than the channel length of the second stage, the ratio of change (deviation) in the conductance β and the threshold voltage V_T become smaller as shown in Figures 4(A)-(B). Thus, the first logic gate has a smaller driveability, or channel ratio (W/L), than the second logic gate. In addition, Figure 6 of OZAWA shows that the channel length L is larger in the first circuit than in the second circuit, and thus the driveability (channel ratio W/L) of the second circuit is higher than that of the first circuit, as in the prior art discussed in the Background of the present specification.

Accordingly, since OZAWA does not disclose that the first logic gate has a current driveability higher than a current driveability of the second logic gate, the proposed combination does not render claims 3-8 obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins".

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TWP/jlw